

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10-17, 19, 20, 22-26, 31 and 32 are pending. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the remarks.

Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-17, 19, 20 and 22-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that in claims 3, 15, 31 and 32 "it is not clear whether Applicant refers to a separate device or whether the same device," with reference to "adjusting a display unit".

Respectfully, it is immaterial whether the display device and the visual recording device are elements of the same or different devices; the claims are directed towards method steps. Further, claims 3 and 31 clearly distinguish between a signal transmitting device and a signal receiving device, and the display unit and visual recording units thereof; for example, claims 3 and 31 claim, *inter alia*, "adjusting a display unit of said signal transmitting device and a visual recording device of said signal receiving device." Similarly, claims 15 and 32 claim, *inter alia*, "generating a visual image pattern using a generated signal template; displaying the visual image pattern on a display unit; adjusting a visual recording device and said display unit and using an alternating display process to establish a visual connection between the processing devices; acquiring, visually, an image of the visual image pattern displayed by the display unit using the visual recording device." Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 10-13, 15 and 22-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodridge ("The Environment Understanding Interface: Detecting and Tracking Human Activity through Multimedia Sensors). The Examiner stated essentially that Goodridge teaches or suggests all the limitations of claims 3, 10-13, 15 and 22-26.

Claim 3 claims, *inter alia*, “adjusting a display unit of said signal transmitting device and a visual recording device of said signal receiving device and using an alternating display process to establish a visual connection between said display unit and said visual recording device; encoding a signal pattern as a visual image pattern using a generated signal template of said signal transmitting device; visually transmitting the visual image pattern through free space from the display unit of said signal transmitting device.” Claim 15 claims, *inter alia*, “generating a visual image pattern using a generated signal template; displaying the visual image pattern on a display unit; adjusting a visual recording device and said display unit and using an alternating display process to establish a visual connection between the processing devices; acquiring, visually, an image of the visual image pattern displayed by the display unit using the visual recording device.”

Goodridge teaches tracking a target using a video camera (see Abstract). Goodridge does not teach or suggest a visual connection between a display unit and a visual recording device, as claimed in claim 3, or a visual connection between the processing devices as claimed in claim 15. The Examiner has interpreted “display unit” as a “target location” (see page 3, line 7 of the Office Action); this interpretation has no support in Goodridge and is contradictory to the plain meaning of the terms, the present application and the pending claims. Clearly a mere target location is not a display unit as claimed in claims 3 and 15. Further, merely tracking an object using a camera does not establish a visual connection between processing devices; e.g., a display unit and a visual recording device. Therefore, Goodridge fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 3 and 15; including, among others, a visual connection between a display unit and a visual recording device, as claimed in claim 3, and a visual connection between the processing devices as claimed in claim 15.

Claims 10-13 depend from claim 3. Claims 22-26 depend from claim 15. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for claims 3 and 15. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 20, 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodridge, and further in view of Rhoads (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0005093). The Examiner stated essentially that the combined teachings of Goodridge and Rhoads teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 20, 31 and 32.

Respectfully, the rejection of claims 31 and 32 appears to be an omnibus rejection and lacks sufficient detail for Applicants to make a proper response. The rejection, based on Goodridge and Rhoads refers back to the rejection of claim 3 (rejected based on Goodridge alone) without any mention of how the Examiner believes Rhoads relates to the pending claims or how Goodridge may relate to the specific limitations of claims 31 and 32. Further, the rejection fails to state a motivation for combining Goodridge and Rhoads.

However, in view of the combined teachings of Goodridge and Rhoads, claims 31 and 32 are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons.

Claim 31 claims, *inter alia*, "adjusting a display unit of said signal transmitting device and a visual recording device of said signal receiving device and using an alternating display process to establish a visual connection between said display unit and said visual recording device; encoding a signal pattern as a visual image pattern using a generated signal template of said signal transmitting device; visually transmitting the visual image pattern through free space from the display unit of said signal transmitting device." Claim 32 claims, *inter alia*, "generating a visual image pattern using a generated signal template; displaying the visual image pattern on a display unit; adjusting a visual recording device and said display unit and using an alternating

display process to establish a visual connection between the processing devices; acquiring, visually, an image of the visual image pattern displayed by the display unit using the visual recording device.”

Goodridge teaches tracking a target using a video camera (see Abstract). Goodridge does not teach or suggest a visual connection between a display unit and a visual recording device, as claimed in claim 31, or a visual connection between the processing devices as claimed in claim 32. Goodridge’s target location is not analogous to a display unit as claimed in claims 31 and 32. For example, a target location of Goodridge is a human. A human is not a display device as claimed in claims 31 and 32. Further, merely tracking an object using a camera does not establish a visual connection between processing devices; e.g., a display unit and a visual recording device. Therefore, Goodridge fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 31 and 32; including, among others, a visual connection between a display unit and a visual recording device, as claimed in claim 31, and a visual connection between the processing devices as claimed in claim 32.

Rhoads teaches a method and apparatus for providing media-independent security for a document (see Abstract). Rhoads teaches that blobs occur in ink based printing (see paragraph [0332]). Rhoads does not teach or suggest a visual connection between a display unit and a visual recording device, as claimed in claim 31, and a visual connection between the processing devices as claimed in claim 32. Nowhere does Rhoads teach or suggest a visual connection between devices. Therefore, Rhoads fails to cure the deficiencies of Goodridge.

The combined teachings of Goodridge and Rhoads fail to teach or suggest a visual connection between a display unit and a visual recording device, as claimed in claim 31, and a visual connection between the processing devices as claimed in claim 32.

Claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 depend from claim 3. Claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 depend from claim 15. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given in the respective independent claims. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the forgoing reasons, the application, including claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10-17, 19, 31 and 32, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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